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OTTO WM. GIULIANI
City Manager

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

August 10, 1999

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Ex Parte Filing* in cases WT 99-217; CC 96-98

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Please do not adopt the rule proposed in these cases allowing any phone company to serve any tenant of a building and to place their antenna on the building roof.

The FCC lacks the authority to do this. It would violate basic property rights-- a landlord, city or condominium has the right to control who comes on their property. Congress did not give the FCC the authority to condemn space for 100 phone companies in every building in the country.

The FCC cannot preempt state and local building codes, zoning ordinance, environmental legislation and other laws affecting antennas on roofs. Zoning and building codes are purely matters of state and local jurisdiction which under Federalism and the Tenth Amendment you may not preempt.

For example, building codes are imposed in part for engineering related safety reasons. These vary by region, weather patterns and building type -- such as the likelihood of earthquakes, hurricanes and maximum amount of snow and ice. If antennas are too heavy or too high, roofs collapse. If they are not properly secured, they will blow over and damage the building, its inhabitants or passers-by.

Similarly, zoning laws are matters of local concern which protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare, ensure compatibility or uses, preserve property values and the character of our communities. We may restrict the numbers, types, locations, size and aesthetics of antennas on buildings (such as requiring them to be properly screened) to achieve these legitimate goals, yet see that needed services are provided. This requires us to balance

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competing concerns -- which we do every day, with success. Everyone wants garbage picked up, no one wants a transfer station. Everyone wants electricity, no one wants a substation near their home.

The application of zoning principles is highly dependent on local conditions. These vary greatly state by state, from municipality to municipality and within municipalities. Zoning has not unnecessarily impeded technology or the development of our economy, nor will it here. There is simply no basis to conclude that for a band-new technology (wireless fixed telephones) with a minuscule track record that there are problems on such a massive scale with the 38,000 units of local government in the U.S. as to warrant Federal action.

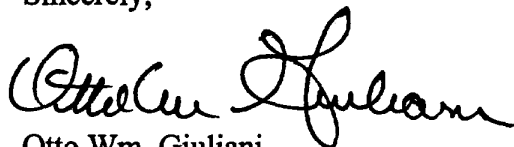
Local management of rights-of-way is essential to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Congress has specifically prohibited you from acting in this area.

We believe the telephone providers' complaints about rights-of-way management and fees are overblown, as shown by the small number of court cases on this -- only about a dozen nationwide in the three years since the 1996 Act. With 38,000 municipalities nationwide and thousands of phone companies this number of cases shows that the system is working, not that it is broken.

Finally, we are surprised that you suggest that the combined federal, state and local tax burden on new phone companies is too high. The FCC has no authority to affect state or local taxes any more than it can affect federal taxes.

For these reasons, please reject the proposed rule and take no action on right-of-way and taxes.

Sincerely,



Otto Wm. Giuliani
City Manager

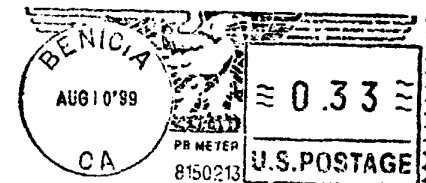
c : FCC Commissioner Harold Furchtogott-Roth
FCC Commissioner Michael Powell
FCC Commissioner Gloria Tristani
FCC Commissioner Susan Ness
Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, FCC Secretary
Mr. Jeffry Steinberg, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Mr. Joel Tauenblatt, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
International Transcription Services
Mr. Kevin McCarty, Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Barrie Tabin, Legislative Counsel, National League of Cities
Mr. Robert Fogel, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties
Mr. Lee Ruck, Executive Director, NATOA
Mr. Thomas Frost, Vice President, Engineering Services, BOCA International
The Honorable George Miller, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senate



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